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## Turner Defends CIA Employee Cuts In Clandestine Unit

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CIA Director Stansfield Turner says the news media has misrepresented his decision to reduce by 820 the number of officers engaged in clandestine work.

Turner heatedly defended his personnel cuts in the Directorate of Operations — the "dirty tricks" division — under questioning by reporters after he testified at a House Intelligence Committee hearing.

The exchange occurred yesterday in the corridor outside the hearing room where Attorney General Griffin Bell and Turner had just testified that there has been a substantial increase of activity by the Russian KGB intelligence agency in the United States.

"If the KGB is stepping up its activities, why is the CIA cutting back so heavily on U.S. intelligence personnel?" Turner was asked.

"OUR EFFORT IS not smaller in our operating areas overseas," Turner declared. "You in the media have misrepresented what we have done. I hope you as a taxpayer don't want me to keep 820 people on the payroll that I don't need."

The reduction in force at CIA has caused considerable bitterness among veteran officers at the agency. Most of those put on early retirement or fired were in the clandestine services.

Bell and Turner had testified in favor of the administration-backed Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which would establish statutory requirements for intelligence agencies to conduct electronic surveillance in the United States.

Bell said that no American had been subjected to national security wiretaps or bugs since he took office, but he and Turner nevertheless favor the legislation.

THE BILL WOULD authorize the attorney general to approve applications for warrants to conduct such surveillance with applications to be made to one of seven federal judges designated by the chief justice. No U.S. citizen could be targeted for surveillance unless there is probable cause to believe he is engaged in clandestine foreign intelligence, sabotage or terrorist activities.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has reported out the bill and the Senate Intelligence Committee soon will mark up the legislation. Two more hearings are scheduled by the House Intelligence Committee today and next week.